



CIAD names the winner of the October art contest

The Centro Informacion Anti-Droga (CIAD) located in a landmark building on the Oranjestraat is geared to informing and educating youth about the dangers of substance abuse. This not only includes illegal substances, but also alcohol and cigarettes. Ann Angela, the Director of P/R and Information reports that they are very pleased by the response they see amongst Aruba's youth.

On Wednesday afternoon, the center awarded three young ladies as the winners of a coloring contest they conducted during the October vacation. The drawing consisted of their mascot "Bugsy." Who would rather "eat bugs than do drugs," against a backdrop of the center. The aim of CIAD is to begin educating children from a very young age and in a non-threatening way to resist the attraction of addictive substances. Ann Angela stated the staff is very pleased with the response to the contest, with over fifty families making the effort to acquire the entry forms and complete them.

Prizes were awarded in two age categories; four to eight and eight to twelve years. Kimberly Henriquez, ten years old won a portable CD player for her creativity, and Vivan Tromp and Josy Henriquez, both five years old, took home a collection of varied art materials.

The Bugsy slogan was created by ten-year-old Brandon Lassonde, who spends his summers on the island with his Aruban mother, but lives in Canada the rest of the year. He also gave the mascot his name.

The CIAD program is aimed at prevention of substance abuse, a problem that all communities everywhere are facing every day on an increasing basis. The best methods devised so far is the education from an early age in a way that appeals to youngsters of the positive benefits of "staying clean." The center finds Aruba's youth are curious, concerned and "they care." Projects such as this coloring contest will be one of many that will draw children and their families to the CIAD center to become informed and armed in the battle against substance abuse. Congratulations to the young winners!